



New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities

Elaine Buchsbaum *Chair*
Alison M. Lozano, Ph.D., M.P.A.
Executive Director

COUNCIL MEETING
January 24, 2008

A regular public meeting of the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities was held on Thursday January 24, 2008, at the Lafayette Marriott Hotel in Trenton, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Elaine Buchsbaum, Chair, who presided and declared a quorum present.

MINUTES – The minutes from November 29, 2007 were approved as distributed – upon motion by Sarah Mitchell, seconded and carried with two abstentions.

INTRODUCTIONS – Elaine Buchsbaum, Chair

Elaine welcomed back Mary Kay Weber and everyone introduced themselves. The meeting notice was published in the *Newark Star Ledger* and the *Trenton Times*. It was posted on the bulletin board at the Mary Roebling Building on State Street in Trenton.

Elaine passed around a thank you note for flowers that were sent on behalf of the Council from Dr. Alison Lozano who has been out on sick leave.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Elaine Buchsbaum

- Lowell Arye – His comment concerns the Federal Reimbursement on Case Management and the significant changes that will be put into effect on March 4, 2008.

STATE BUDGET PROCESS – Douglas McGruther/Bill Ditto

Discussion

This topic was discussed during the January 8, 2008 Executive Committee Meeting in terms of how might we become a stronger voice in the budget process. Carolyn Hayer who is chair of the Public Policy Committee suggested that for the purpose of gaining a better understanding of the budget process, that a copy of the budget timeline be distributed to Council members. This timeline was distributed.

LETTER TO GOVERNOR CORZINE – Elaine Buchsbaum

Discussion

Elaine read aloud a letter to be sent to Governor Corzine from the Council concerning the lack of appointments of self-advocates to the Council. According to the NACDD, we, as a Council, are out of compliance regarding membership. The letter requests that the Council be permitted to assist the Governor's Office with the selection process. The Council recommends the following to be included with the letter:

- Letter of Non-compliance from NACDD,
- Names from Governor's pending appointments list, and;
- Copy to the Appointments Secretary.

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COUNCIL RETREAT – Elaine Buchsbaum

Discussion

The retreat has been scheduled for Thursday March 27 and Friday March 28, 2008 and will be held at the Wyndham Conference Center, Plainsboro, New Jersey. Elaine asked Jacinta Williams, staff secretary, to send out an email to Council members requesting key issues and topics of interest for Retreat discussion. Review of the State Plan will begin the discussion on the first day. Once the agenda has been established information packets will go out.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/ACTIVITIES/FORUMS – Norman Reim

Discussion

The Public Awareness Committee and staff explored ideas and gathered input about sponsoring a public awareness campaign to promote increased inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all communities. With the input received through the spring and summer discussions, staff developed the scope of work for Request For Proposal (RFP), to solicit expert vendors to help design and guide the campaign. There would be three pieces to the campaign:

1. Main proposal would be for a traditional broad themed campaign using all the various media;
2. Second, would be for a evaluation component to assess the effectiveness of the main proposal, and;
3. A grass roots public relations, media and marketing campaign to respond to issues that misrepresent or diminish the developmentally disabled in some way.

It was agreed that the three pieces would be bid out separately. It was suggested the Council discuss this topic during the upcoming council retreat.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee – Elaine Buchsbaum

Discussion

The Committee reviewed and approved one mini-grant request from The Family Support Center of New Jersey. Elaine reviewed the pre-bid mandatory meetings for grant proposals. Retreat input from members was suggested. The by-laws will be reviewed and updated by the By-Laws Committee. The Executive Committee drafted the letter to Governor Corzine regarding the under-representation of self-advocates on Council.

Planning Committee – Dennis Rizzo

Discussion

The Committee discussed the public forums to be held in conjunction with Protection and Advocacy and the Boggs Center to gather information. The forums will be held in three locations; northern, southern, and central. All information will be posted on the website and updated regularly. Mercedes Jiminez-Ramirez will assist with translation into Spanish. Elaine Buchsbaum requested that the information be distributed accordingly. The Committee will meet again before the Council Retreat in March.

Policy Committee – Carolyn Hayer

Discussion

The Committee reviewed several policies/issues and reports the following:

- Council's position paper on Deinstitutionalization will be revisited as the State's activities have changed;
- The position paper on Education should be reviewed by the Education Task Force Committee for their recommendations; and
- The committee developed a list of broad issues to look at during the year, with the goal of developing statements of principals and/or policy positions, including: housing, transportation, employment, voting, health and wellness, community integration and self-directed supports.

The Committee also discussed the issue of agency provision of services such as respite and the importance of appropriate notifications being sent out beforehand to those affected by changes in services. Following today's meeting, the Committee will meet.

UPDATE ON CURRENTLY FUNDED GRANTS – Dennis Rizzo

Discussion:

The Quarter One Reports were distributed for the Council's review and comment. The report reflects a three month update of the approved grants. Dennis Rizzo also distributed a report on the Aging and Disabilities Pilot Project for Mercer County. The Grants will be reviewed again during the forums for more input.

OTHER BUSINESS

The By-Laws need to be addressed. They sunset in July 2008. Elaine asked for volunteers for a By-Laws Committee to assist council staff, Pat Krupka with the task and the following volunteered: Jennifer DeMauro, Carolyn Hayer, Sarah Mitchell, Mercedes Jimenez-Ramirez, Lorraine D'Sylva-Lee, Elaine Buchsbaum, and David Tag.

Elaine began chairing the Council Meetings beginning in November. She thanked Lorraine, as Vice-Chair, for stepping in and conducting the Council Meetings before she was appointed.

Elaine requested an update for the awards ceremony. Jane Dunhamn, council staff reported that due to staffing issues, it was agreed upon to begin again next year. The procedures have been revised and will be sent to members via email. Jennifer DeMauro reported that Fellowship Program in Inclusive Education has received 35 applications. Of those, nine have moved to the next level of rating. The awards ceremony for this program is scheduled for the May Council Meeting.

Michael Knox had available for distribution, the Boggs Center's newest publication, *Enhancing Early Intervention for Parents of young Children with Autism*.

ADJOURNED – 1:19 p.m.

Upon motion, seconded and carried.

DISTRIBUTED FOR INFORMATION

November 29th Meeting Minutes

Budget Timeline

Public Policy Meeting Minutes

First Quarter Project Report

The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities

NJ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services

NJ Protection & Advocacy, Inc.

NJ Department of Health & Senior Services

NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities

NJ Division of Disability Services

ATTENDANCE:

Self Advocates & Family Members

Elaine Buchsbaum, Chair

Lorraine D'Sylva-Lee, Vice-Chair

Purnima Hernandez/Excused

Larry Jones

Ellie Byra/Excused

David Tag/Excused

Carolyn Hayer

Mercedes Jimenez-Ramirez

Maria Teresa Abinader/Excused

Leila Gold/Excused

Jennifer DeMauro

Holly Wetscher/Excused

Mary Kay Weber

Guests

Richard Quinlan

Larry Quinlan

Lowell Arye/ABCD

Donna Holden, Sign Language Interpreter

Tom Baffuto/ARC NJ

Chris Miller

DD Act Agencies Representatives

Michael Knox, Deputy Director, The Boggs Center- University Center for Excellence

Sarah Mitchell, Executive Director, NJ Protection and Advocacy, Inc.

Government Agencies

Brian Fitzgibbons, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

William Ditto, Director, Division of Disability Services

Kenneth Ritchey, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Developmental Disabilities

Phyllis Napier-Melendez, Division of Medical Assistance & Health Services

Staff

Alison M. Lozano, Ph.D., M.P.A., Executive Director

Doug McGruther, Deputy Director

Jacinta Williams

Gail Furrer

Luke Koppisch

Pat Krupka

Sharian Mackins-Gist

Norman Reim

Dennis Rizzo

Dennie Todd

Gail Hodges

Jane Dunham